

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



CFD Responds to Multiple Structure Fires

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Charleston, SC (March 30, 2015): The Charleston Fire Department responded to multiple structure fire incidents on Hanover Street and Reid Street within the last 48 hours. Please see the information below on each of these incidents.

- On Sunday, 03/29/15, units with the Charleston Fire Department, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched at 11:03 AM to a possible structure fire on the 70 block of Hanover Street. First arriving fire personnel were on scene at 11:07 AM and reported smoke coming from the attic of a two-story wood frame structure. Fire personnel began an interior attack on the fire and were able to contain the fire to a single bathroom on the first floor. Minor to moderate smoke damage was sustained throughout the structure.

Occupants of the residence were alerted by smoke alarms and exited the structure with no injuries. The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire and determined the cause to be related to a bathroom ventilation fan.

- On Monday, 03/30/2015, units with the Charleston and St. Andrews Fire Departments, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched at 2:15 AM for a possible structure fire in the 40 block of Reid Street. Fire personnel arrived on scene at 2:19 AM and reported smoke coming from the front of an elevated three-story duplex. Fire personnel began an interior attack on the fire and were able to extinguish and contain the fire to a second floor bedroom. Smoke and heat damage was sustained throughout the second floor of the multi-unit structure.

A tenant discovered the fire and vacated the structure. Smoke alarms alerted additional occupants of the residence that were able to escape without injury. The tenant who discovered the fire was treated on scene for smoke inhalation but was not transported. Multiple smoke alarms were noted to have been installed improperly or missing batteries. The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

“Fire damage to both structures was quickly mitigated thanks to a rapid response and quick actions of fire department personnel,” said Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. “Both fires were essentially contained to single rooms in the home and multiple occupants escaped serious injuries. Early notification by the working smoke alarms played a crucial role in both fire events and proved their value by increasing escape time and reducing injuries.”

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few safety tips:

- 1) If you see or smell an unwanted fire, alert other occupants and exit the structure immediately. Never return into a fire for any reason.
- 2) Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.
- 3) Every level of a home should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- 4) Test smoke alarms monthly. Batteries should be changed on a yearly basis.
- 5) Create an escape plan, discuss, and practice with other occupants of your residence about what to do in case of a fire.

Please contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at (843)958-6401 or by email at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov for additional tips on smoke alarms and fire safety.

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